

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims, which is provided in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, replaces all prior versions and listing of the claims in relation to the present patent application.

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A one trip method of tensioning and sealing a tubular string to a wellhead, comprising:
 - running the tubular string and a seal assembly together into the wellhead;
 - securing the string downhole;
 - ~~securing the seal assembly to the wellhead;~~ and
 - applying and retaining a tensile force on the string after said securing the seal assembly to the wellhead, all in one trip.
2. Cancelled
3. (Previously presented) A one trip method of tensioning and sealing a tubular string to a wellhead, comprising:
 - running the tubular string and a seal assembly together into the wellhead;
 - securing the string downhole;
 - positioning the seal assembly in contact with the wellhead; and
 - pulling a tensile force on the string, all in one trip;
 - allowing a lock ring to move between said seal assembly and the wellhead to secure said seal assembly in the wellhead prior to said pulling.
4. (Previously presented) A one trip method of tensioning and sealing a tubular string to a wellhead, comprising:
 - running the tubular string and a seal assembly together into the wellhead;
 - securing the string downhole;

positioning the seal assembly in contact with the wellhead; and
pulling a tensile force on the string, all in one trip;
allowing a lock ring to move between said seal assembly and the wellhead to secure said seal assembly in the wellhead;
using a running tool to deliver said string and seal assembly;
releasing said lock ring using said running tool.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, comprising:
retaining said string with the running tool after releasing said lock ring.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, comprising:
releasing the lock ring by rotation of the running tool.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4, comprising:
using the running tool to pull tension on said string;
locking in the tension with a ratchet.

8. (Previously presented) A one trip method of tensioning and sealing a tubular string to a wellhead, comprising:
running the tubular string and a seal assembly together into the wellhead;
securing the string downhole;
positioning the seal assembly in contact with the wellhead; and
pulling a tensile force on the string, all in one trip;
allowing a lock ring to move between said seal assembly and the wellhead to secure said seal assembly in the wellhead;
using a running tool to deliver said string and seal assembly;
releasing said lock ring using said running tool;
using the running tool to pull tension on said string;
locking in the tension with a ratchet;
providing a biased dog in a groove on said string having at least one exterior tooth;
securing a ratchet rack to said seal assembly;

moving said dog with respect to said rack while tension is applied; and
allowing said dog to retain said tension when said tooth jumps into an adjacent
depression in said rack.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, comprising:

building in said bias integrally into said dog.

10. (Currently amended) A one trip method of tensioning and sealing a tubular string to a wellhead, comprising:

running the tubular string and a seal assembly together into the wellhead;
securing the string downhole;

~~positioning the seal assembly in contact with the wellhead; and~~

pulling a tensile force on the string, all in one trip;

pulling said tensile force on said string before said positioning of said seal assembly in the wellhead;

advancing said seal assembly into said wellhead after said pulling of said tensile force.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) A one trip method of tensioning and sealing a tubular string to a wellhead, comprising:

running the tubular string and a seal assembly together into the wellhead;
securing the string downhole;

~~positioning the seal assembly in contact with the wellhead; and~~

pulling a tensile force on the string, all in one trip;

pulling said tensile force on said string before said positioning of said seal assembly in the wellhead;

advancing said seal assembly into said wellhead during or after said pulling of said tensile force;

using a rack-and-pinion mechanical force applied to said seal assembly for said advancing.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, comprising:

using a running tool to insert said string and said seal assembly into the wellhead;
advancing said seal assembly by moving it into the wellhead with respect to said running tool.

14. (Currently amended) A one trip method of tensioning and sealing a tubular string to a wellhead, comprising:

running the tubular string and a seal assembly together into the wellhead;
securing the string downhole;
~~positioning the seal assembly in contact with the wellhead; and~~
pulling a tensile force on the string, all in one trip;
pulling said tensile force on said string before said positioning of said seal assembly in the wellhead;
advancing said seal assembly into said wellhead during or after said pulling of said tensile force;
using a running tool to insert said string and said seal assembly into the wellhead;
advancing said seal assembly by moving it into the wellhead with respect to said running tool;
releasing a lock, after said advancing, to secure said seal assembly to the wellhead with said running tool.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, comprising:

securing said seal assembly to a hanger; and
securing the hanger and seal assembly to the wellhead.

16. (Original) The method of claim 10, comprising:

securing said seal assembly to a hanger; and
securing the hanger and seal assembly to the wellhead.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, comprising:

securing said seal assembly to a hanger; and
securing the hanger and seal assembly to the wellhead.

18. (Currently amended) A one trip method of tensioning and sealing a tubular string to a wellhead, comprising:

running the tubular string and a seal assembly together into the wellhead;
securing the string downhole;
~~positioning the seal assembly in contact with the wellhead; and~~
pulling a tensile force on the string, all in one trip;
pulling said tensile force on said string before said positioning of said seal assembly in the wellhead;

advancing said seal assembly into said wellhead during or after said pulling of said tensile force;

using a running tool to insert said string and said seal assembly into the wellhead;
advancing said seal assembly by moving it into the wellhead with respect to said running tool;

releasing a lock, after said advancing, to secure said seal assembly to the wellhead with said running tool;

securing said seal assembly to a hanger; and
securing the hanger and seal assembly to the wellhead;
providing a biased dog in a groove on said string having at least one exterior tooth;
securing a ratchet rack to said hanger;
moving said dog with respect to said rack while tension is applied; and
allowing said dog to retain said tension when said tooth jumps into an adjacent depression in said rack.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, comprising:

providing a seal between said string and said rack during relative movement between them.

20. (Original) The method of claim 8, comprising:

providing a seal between said string and said rack during relative movement between them.

21. (New) The method of claim 10, comprising:

using a hydraulic piston to advance said seal assembly.

22. (New) A method of tensioning and sealing a tubular string to a wellhead, comprising:

advancing a tubing string and a seal assembly into the wellhead concurrently;

securing the seal assembly with respect to the wellhead; and

applying tension to the tubing string while maintaining the position of the seal assembly with respect to the wellhead.